

# W5YI REPORT

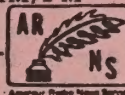
Up to the minute news from the worlds of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

## Dits & Bits

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207

### ★ In This Issue ★

VEC's Band Together, Form Group  
Gathering News on the Ham Bands  
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Ham Amplifier Firm Investigated  
Amateur Legal Defense Insurance  
Pirate Pop Radio Broadcasts  
WHNS - Government News Service  
Ham Publishes Commodore Book  
AEC - Work-at-Home Association  
What's Going on in Consumer  
...Gadgets, Telephones, AM/FM  
...radio, Computers



VOL. 7, Issue #18

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PUBLISHED TWICE A MONTH September 15, 1985

## National VEC Organization Formed

Should the fragmented amateur testing community be brought together under the guidance of a single umbrella organization? That was the question pondered by VEC representatives at the recently concluded FCC workshop held August 9th at the FCC's Gettysburg, PA, licensing facility. At present we have some two dozen plus VEC ham test administrators.

The informal after hours meeting found that much duplication of effort exists among the VEC's. Each has their own test preparation system and a somewhat different program... even though their instructions from the FCC are the same. The collective feeling seemed to be that VEC's need to work together toward achieving uniform amateur radio operator testing and a system should be developed to provide for input from VEC's and VEC's into the testing decision making process.

Many phone calls and a couple of weeks later, a national testing organization tentatively named the Council for Amateur Radio Examining (C.A.R.E.), has been formed. Already being considered are such things as mutually recognizing each others volunteer examiners, developing a common examination pool, establishing test standards, co-op printing and stockpiling of testing materials and cooperating in exam scheduling. C.A.R.E. will also serve as a national clearinghouse to

gather and disseminate amateur radio testing information.

Membership in C.A.R.E. will be open to any FCC accredited VEC and to any individual volunteer examiners... even if the VEC is not a C.A.R.E. member. Associate membership status will be open to anyone. Annual dues range from \$25.00 for VEC's down to \$5.00 for associate members.

Work on the C.A.R.E. organization is continuing rapidly. The Board of Directors will be made up of each VEC member - each having one vote on C.A.R.E. policy. A Vice Director will be selected by the Director. A National VEC Net to discuss how amateur radio operator testing could be standardized now meets Sunday's at 14.173 MHz. at 1700Z.

Preliminary draft articles of C.A.R.E. incorporation in the State of Illinois have been prepared and forwarded to all VEC's for further comment and suggestions. Incorporation will be sought under IRS code §501(c)3... which provides for non-profit incorporation for charitable, educational and scientific purposes.

The initial officers of the group will be:

Joe T. Ingram, Jr., K4OOV, President  
Central Alabama VEC - Region 4  
Alex Magocsi, WB2MGB, First Vice President



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September 15, 1985

Metroplex VEC - Region 2, soon to be a national VEC.

**Frederick O. Maia, W5YI, Vice President**

The W5YI Report VEC - National VEC

**James Georgias, W9JUG, Executive Vice President, DeVry VEC - National VEC**

**Gordon Girtan, W6NLG, Secretary/Treasurer Sunnyvale VEC - Region 6 VEC**

These officers will serve until 1987. While the president will be the principal officer of the corporation, day-to-day operation of C.A.R.E. will be handled by Executive Vice President Jim Georgias, W9JUG, of the DeVry VEC. Joe Schroeder, W9JUV, has been asked to handle the public relations function of the group.

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On August 13th, Lee Shoblom, President and General Manager of London Bridge Broadcasting, Inc., 2001 Industrial Blvd., Lake Havasu City, Arizona, 86403, filed a request with the FCC for waiver of the amateur rules to permit him to use amateur radio for news gathering for broadcast purposes.

Specifically, Mr. Shoblom requests that he be permitted to use amateur frequency 434 MHz for gathering news on matters of community interest and broadcast such news on his low power television station.

The FCC's Private Radio Bureau seeks comments on this filing and has assigned "File No. PRB-2" to the matter. "PRB" file numbers are something the FCC unofficially came up with to solicit information from the public. They are more or less similar to NOI's... Notice of Inquiry which we don't seem to see too much of any more.

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We were confused as to why it was O.K. to report bad weather directly to amateurs at the U.S. weather bureau via ham radio but not to amateur operators at commercial radio stations. There seems to be a fine line between amateur and non-amateur public service.

A good use of amateur spectrum might be to report traffic tie-ups and accidents to broadcast stations during rush hour traffic, but it is not legal. But it is legal to report it to the police via phone patch.

Broadcasters have trouble understanding the difference. Some maintain that the government has no power to control what is said on the air waves... any air waves. The difference, of course, is that the Part 97.110 rules allow emergency... but not routine... business communications on the ham bands. Broadcasters do not handle emergencies... they only report them.

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## POLICE CALL ON AMATEUR COMMUNITY

The City of Santa Monica, California, police department, in conjunction with SURV, Santa Monica Unified Radio Volunteers, is sponsoring a "Crime Watch-85" seminar on October 5th "to open the lines of communications, share information and create liaisons between the various amateur volunteer groups." A registration form asks the participant's amateur radio call sign, license class and an inventory of radio equipment held.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?  
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"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a volunteer examiner. I have never had my station as a ham radio operator. I have never had my station as a ham radio operator. I have never had my station as a ham radio operator."



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"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a volunteer examiner. I have never had my station or operator license revoked or suspended. I do not own a significant interest in nor am an employee of any company or entity engaged in making, preparing or distributing amateur radio equipment or license preparation materials. My age is at least 18 years old."

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER? under "The W5YI Report" Program? If so, please send a copy of your Extra Class license, this signed statement, and a SASE to: W5YI-VEC; P.O. Box #10101; Dallas, Texas 75207. A certificate (optional) is also available for \$1.00. Details and accreditation materials will be sent to you within a two week period.

●FCC approval has been given to a Vehicle Radar Safety System's device that can detect objects in front of a car and warn the driver of an impending collision. The \$558 VRSS system operates as soon as the car reaches 10-mph and transmits a radar beam. A built-in computer monitors the distance between the car and the detected object. Solid objects, such as telephone poles, pedestrians, walls and other cars in front of a car activate a caution light. A danger light goes on and an audible alarm sounds as you get closer.

●A small hand-held terminal may be used to order your restaurant meal in the future. Instead of writing, now waiters and waitresses can take orders by punching in the data on their pocket-sized terminals. The hand-held terminals developed by Validec, Inc., use an RF signal to transmit messages to the kitchen and an IBM-PC microcomputer. The bill is automatically tabulated and printed by the PC. The system is two-way. Cooks push buttons to notify the server that the meal is ready. A complete food service report is printed by the microcomputer at day's end!

●Lifetime light bulbs are now a reality! Super long-life light bulbs have been developed that can burn the equivalent of 50 years! DioLight Technology bulbs have a built-in diode that converts current to DC. Less heating and vibration is incurred with DC since the switching direction is not constantly changing. The major drawback of lower light output has been partially overcome by using gas-filled bulbs that make the filament glow more brightly. The bulbs sell for \$3 to \$5 - about five times that of conventional bulbs, but give 80 times the life.

●Two-way pagers have been developed by PTI, Inc, a Ft. Thomas, KY, start up firm. Eliminated is the problem of finding a phone when the beeper goes off! You merely talk into the pocket-sized pager.

●"Mirror, mirror on the wall" department. A Japanese cosmetic company has developed a novel computerized makeup simulator! Women can now see what they will look like before changing to a "new look." A video camera projects a customer's image on a screen and an "electronic paintbrush" shows different

makeup, hair style, and color combinations without anything ever touching her face. When the right combination is found, she simply buys the products the computer indicates!

●Look for computer generated road maps as a car accessory within five years. Using new FCC approved satellite technology, a moving dot on the map will pinpoint exactly where you are! By 1990, car's will come equipped with a master computer that will indicate everything you never knew you needed to know! It is all in the works.

●Epson is set to release a Wrist Computer. The RC-20 has a 4-line by 7 character liquid crystal touch-screen display, 2K of RAM and a Z-80 compatible chip. Also functions as a watch.

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### IN THE TELEPHONE BUSINESS...

●Jim "Madman" Muntz of L.A.'s Muntz Electronics, the first to break the \$1000 cellular radiotelephone barrier, says we should be looking at \$500 cellular telephones within a year.

●Motorists with cellular telephones spend twice as much time on the road, yet have half as many accidents, according to a Triple A study. The 62-page report, which analyzed 750 motorists in the Washington, DC, area, concludes that the average cellular phone subscriber is male, between 36 and 45, drives 23,500 miles per year and uses his car three hours of the working day. He is now paying \$1700 for cellular phone and installation... down from \$2800 a year ago.

●Biggest story in the telephone business is that IBM has bought a sizeable stake in MCI. With that purchase, IBM now not only owns a telephone equipment making firm (it acquired Rolm Corp. last year) but a position in a telephone communications company as well. IBM wants to control its own destiny and not rely on arch-competitor AT&T. Both firms are now ready for the battle of the 21st century. \$33 billion AT&T dominates telecommunications, \$46 billion IBM... computers. Each are inching into the others market. MCI also got IBM's troubled SBS... Satellite Business Systems... and its 200,000 long distance



## WHAT'S GOING ON IN.... IN ELECTRONIC CONSUMER GOODS....

Home video is the big gun! In 1985 an estimated 11.5 million VCRs will be sold... up from 805K in 1980. (80% of the business is VHS format. Forget Beta. Eventually 8-mm will be big.)

Make no mistake about it. Video is very big business! Every 24 hours, American backyards sprout another 1,000 satellite TV dishes... and living rooms sport another 17,000 new videocassette recorders. The EIA (Electronic Industries Association) says that 30% of the nation's homes will be renting movie cassettes and taping movies by year end.

The next video biggie will be cameras that allow you to record your own home movies! About 500K units will be sold this year. Sony has a new 2-lb (\$1800) camcorder called the "Mini-8". Sony feels that the 8-mm format will overtake the 1/2" format in about ten years.

Be on the lookout for interactive VCR tapes! By early next year we will have video programming that will allow viewers to participate in the action on screen... even predict your own movie ending! Educational videos will allow students to actually "talk" via a hand-held controller to the cassette taped instructor. Interactive video programming can also be transmitted by satellite or through land-line cables! Book publishers are turning to video books.

While the video market is booming, there is very little profit to be made in it! Competition is too tough! There are now cassette movie rental operations and VCR dealers everywhere... each trying to get their share of the business. Margins are down to 10%!

150M blank and 50M pre-recorded VCR tapes will be sold in 1985. The average VCR owner buys ten blank tapes a year. Tape prices, which used to be in the \$10 to \$12 class ... are now down to less than half that.

A new wrinkle is that broadcast stations can now turn on your VCR! By transmit-

ting a digital code, two West German TV networks are introducing "VPS"... Video Program Service... this month. The VCR stops recording when the code changes or no longer accompanies the program. The activating code can even stop VCR's during ads. You merely enter the code of the programs you want to see and the VCR and the broadcast station do the rest.

Thirty minute video postcards are even available. Home video many surpass theatrical movies in revenues next year. Pre-recorded videocassette movies will eventually dip in price to \$19.95... or even \$9.95 Right now movies sell for an average of \$69.95 to \$79.95... although some are available at \$29.95 to \$39.95.

●Microprocessor based Digital TV has arrived. Panasonic, RCA, Toshiba, Sony, Mitsubishi, Zenith, Quasar... all have it. You'll be able to watch two screens at one time. One will be superimposed in a corner of the other. User controlled TV freeze and zoom-in action will be possible... along with storing the on-screen picture for later printing!

## OTHER NEW CONSUMER GADGETS...

●Cortrex Industries has a 2" square radio transmitter (\$130) that is worn on a child's belt. An alarm sounds if the child wanders more than 100 feet. A panic button can also be pushed by a threatened child.

●DWI's had better beware if SOBER (Safe Only Breath Energized Relay) catches on. Drunk drivers won't be able to start their car if they have alcohol tainted breath. The hand-held breath device test must be taken every time a car is started! A more expensive version uses the owner's dental-bite pattern to insure that someone else is not taking the test for the car owner!

●Starting this month, at least one Las Vegas casino will have slot machines that take special debit cards! Gambler's will buy a plastic card with a preset dollar amount magnetically encoded on it. The slot machines will automatically subtract a preset sum every time you pull the handle! The cashless slots will eliminate the single most expensive thing in a casino... cash security and handling!

DO YOU EXCERPT OR QUOTE FROM "THE W5YI REPORT?"

WOULD YOU DO US A FAVOR?

This is, of course, allowed without limitation. The W5YI Report appears on many computer bulletin boards and in club newsletters. We do not get any income from this and would appreciate it if you would publish our small classified ad (see margin between pages 4 & 7) on license preparation materials. Thanks!

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Rierson, if convicted, faces a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment, a fine of up to \$10,000 and forfeiture of his equipment to the U.S. Government.

The FCC requests that anyone having additional information regarding clandestine broadcast stations should contact the FCC; Field Operations Bureau; I&I Branch; Washington, D.C. 20554

●According to ASR, the AMSAT publication, the European spacelab D1 mission carrying three amateurs aboard is tentatively scheduled for November 7th. Uplinks 437.125 to 437.375 MHz - downlinks 145.450 to 145.575. Operation by two German and one Dutch amateur will be under the call: DP1ØSL. More later.

●New York Assembly Bill 1429 which would exempt amateur radio equipment from state sales tax is dead for this year. Assemblyman Roger J. Robach was not able to get his bill passed this session but has received a commitment from the Assembly leadership that amateur radio equipment will be included and considered in a comprehensive reform of the New York State sales tax code scheduled for next year.

## FCC INVESTIGATING AMP SUPPLY

We understand that the FCC's Norfolk District Office is investigating the Amp Supply Company of Raleigh, North Carolina, for violations of the Commission's marketing rules on linear amplifiers.

Allegedly Amp Supply sent out some unsolicited direct mail brochures promoting their LK-800 Series Linear Amplifiers. This model, supposedly "for Export only," amplifies all frequencies from 3 to 30 MHz including the banned 10 meter band. Amp Supply Company advertises their LK-500Z"B" amplifier monthly in QST, but this model covers only 160 to 15 meters.

The FCC prohibited marketing of linears that had the capability of amplifying the 11 meter (27 MHz) CB band back in 1978. Specifically amplifiers could not amplify 24-35

MHz. (Docket 21116, adopted June 28th, 1978.) The ban on "manufacture, sale, lease (including advertising for sales or lease)" was to be in effect for two years, but was later indefinitely extended.

Amp Supply is headed up by Denny Had, K8KXK. His previous company, Dentrone Radio Company, Inc., (also in the amplifier business) filed for bankruptcy on June 25, 1981.

## CANADIAN AMATEUR TO STAND TRIAL

Some time ago we told you about the plight of Jack Ravenscroft, VE3SR... the Canadian ham charged with interfering with his neighbor's appliances... which included a microwave oven!

A hearing in County court, Ottawa, concluded with an Interim Injunction being placed against Ravenscroft. He is now not permitted to operate his amateur radio equipment at all. The timing of the full trial is indefinite, but expected in mid-September.

A special defense fund has been set up for Ravenscroft whose legal expenses now are nearly \$5000. To date they have received over 180 donations. Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM, (PO Box 8873, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3J2) is chairman of the fund which has the full support of both Canadian amateur radio organizations... CARF (Canadian Amateur Radio Federation) and the CRRL, (Canadian Radio Relay League.)

## AMATEUR LEGAL DEFENSE INSURANCE

Amateurs (us included) are receiving home-computer generated handbill type letters touting "antenna, tower or alleged interference litigation" insurance.

The outfit offering the coverage is "Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc." (PPLSI) headquartered in Ada, Oklahoma. They market their insurance through a multi-level-marketing scheme which they maintain is not a "pyramid" plan.

The two page home-made flyer that I received from one of their agents says that "PPLSI is to attorney's fees what medical

FCC-NOVICE STUDY GUIDE  
\$3.00 + \$1.00 postage  
FCC-NOVICE ELEMENT 2 TEST \$1.00 + 50¢ postage  
THE ANSWERS TO ALL FCC TESTS ARE AVAILABLE!  
even though a VEC in all regions  
the W5YI Report



insurance is to doctor and hospital bills." They offer IRS audit protection (except in Texas), 24 hour automobile legal protection, opportunity to consult with an attorney of your choosing and an escalating legal defense fund. The fund escalates \$5000 each year that you are a PPLSI member to a maximum of \$25,000 at the end of the fifth year.

The write up claimed that laws affecting antennas and radio communications are vague and seldomly interpreted consistently. "Most of us know that when it comes to going to court, it's not 'who is right' that wins; it's who has the best lawyer that wins," it reads.

Only a company name (D.C. Bland & Company) and a post office box in Independence, Missouri, was listed in the brochure. No phone number. I was able to track down the sender... one David C. Bland, KBØGR, an Advanced Class amateur, and spoke to him. He said that everything was indeed on the up and up and that he was a PPLSI agent. Apparently it is a part time venture for him since he is in the advertising specialty sales business.

I called Oklahoma information and got PPLSI's marketing office in Oklahoma City. They referred me to their headquarters office in Ada, Oklahoma. I was told that this indeed was a legitimate outfit and that they were selling "thousands of policies" to everyone... not only to amateurs seeking legal defense protection. They have a toll-free number - 1-800-654-7757 - with attorneys on their staff.

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Labor unions see working at home and telecommuting as a threat. Local bureaucrats, using zoning laws, have put some home computer workers out of business. AEC has put together an Electronic Bill of Rights which, among other things, asks that legislatures make no laws prohibiting freedom to work in one's home... when that work does not interfere with neighbors' enjoyment of their own homes and communities.

The Edwards' are the authors of several books on working from home with a personal computer. Paul is an attorney... Sarah holds a Masters degree in Social Work. Their 18-year old son is an engineering student at UCLA.



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Thirty minute video postcards are even available. Home video may surpass theatrical movies in revenues next year. Pre-recorded videocassette movies will eventually dip in price to \$19.95... or even \$9.95. Right now movies sell for an average of \$69.95 to \$79.95... although some are available at \$29.95 to \$39.95.

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# W5YI REPORT.....

Page #9

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DO YOU EXCERPT OR QUOTE FROM "THE W5YI REPORT?"

WOULD YOU DO US A FAVOR?

This is, of course, allowed without limitation. The W5YI Report appears on many computer bulletin boards and in club newsletters. We do not get any income from this and would appreciate it if you would publish our small classified ad (see margin between pages 4 & 7) on license preparation materials. Thanks!

WOULD YOU DO US A FAVOR?

## PETITION FILED ON CALL SIGN PREFIXES

Gordon Girton, W6NLG, of Sunnyvale, California, filed a petition for rule making with the FCC on September 3rd concerning assignment of amateur call signs. He requesting that:

(1.) - All one-by-three call signs carrying a "K" or "W" prefix be removed from the Group C call sign assignment sequence until all Group D calls have been issued.

(2.) - Call prefix "WA", "WB", "WD" and "WN" by-three be removed from the Group D call assignment sequence until all Group D calls have been issued.

In support of his petition, Girton argues that by-passing prefixes that have already been partially assigned is in the public interest since it will eliminate needed computer software programming and further conserve FCC personnel and financial resources.

Not mentioned in the petition is the fact that hams often relate call signs to the length of time a person has been licensed. Many amateurs would prefer not to have prefixes re-issued that were originally issued many years ago.

The FCC's Private Radio Bureau now has the option of accepting the petition for public comment or dismissing it as having no merit.

## JORDAN HONORS JY1'S 50TH BIRTHDAY!

The following is from NBC Network News Bureau Chief, Alan S. Kaul, W6RCL... also JY9RL.

The Royal Jordanian Radio Amateur Society has announced plans for "JY50" - a two week celebration of the 50th birthday of His Majesty, King Hussein, JY1. All amateur radio stations in Jordan will sign the special prefix: JY50, followed by their regular two or three letter suffix in all QSO's between November 7 and 21.

His Royal Highness, Prince Raad Bin

Zeid, Chairman of the Society, said amateurs working a number of JY50 stations will qualify for a special award certificate. European stations much work ten JY50 calls... all others must contact five.

"We decided on a two-week period," said Prince Raad, JY2RZ, "...because propagation has been so bad. With a little luck, JY50 stations should be able to work into most all areas in the world during the two week window."

King Hussein, using the callsign JY50 is expected to join the 50 active Jordanian amateurs during the event. A "maximum effort" will be put forth. Stations will be on the air on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Several JY50's are expected to use the OSCAR satellite as well.

Amateurs seeking the special "Worked JY50 Certificate" should send copies of their log (no QSL's required) and either 10 IRC's or \$5 (U.S.) to the Royal Jordanian Radio Amateur Society; JY50 Celebration; P.O. Box #2353; Amman, Jordan.

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## FCC SEIZES PIRATE BROADCAST STATION

On August 19, 1985, under the direction of Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Snider of Ft Smith, Arkansas, U.S. Marshals, accompanied by an agent of the Dallas District of the Federal Communications Commission, served a warrant and seized transmitting equipment utilized by Russell E. Rierison of Boonville, Arkansas.

Rierison operated an unlicensed short wave broadcast station on various frequencies in the 6 and 7 megahertz bands. The search and seizure resulted from a close-in DF to Rierison's residence on August 16, 1985, at which time the station was identified as "KBBR" and was operating on 7440 kHz. just above the amateur 40-meter band.

Agents from the Dallas office had initially located Rierison's unlicensed station, then identified as "KRZY" and "Captain Crazy," on March 9, 1985. This resulted in Rierison's payment of a \$1,000 fine.



Metroplex VEC - Region 2, soon to be a national VEC.

**Frederick O. Maia, W5YI, Vice President**

The W5YI Report VEC - National VEC

**James Georgias, W9JUG, Executive Vice President, DeVry VEC - National VEC**

**Gordon Girton, W6NLG, Secretary/Treasurer**  
Sunnyvale VEC - Region 6 VEC

These officers will serve until 1987. While the president will be the principal officer of the corporation, day-to-day operation of C.A.R.E. will be handled by Executive Vice President Jim Georgias, W9JUG, of the DeVry VEC. Joe Schroeder, W9JUV, has been asked to handle the public relations function of the group.

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## ON NEWS GATHERING ON HAM SPECTRUM

Should the FCC allow news gathering on amateur radio frequencies? Up until this point the Commission has ruled that this is an illegal (commercial) use of amateur spectrum. In the wake of a NPRM (Docket 85-188 4/15/85) that provides for land mobile - amateur radio service shared use of the 421-430 MHz band, this may be changing!

On August 13th, Lee Shoblom, President and General Manager of **London Bridge Broadcasting, Inc.**, 2001 Industrial Blvd., Lake Havasu City, Arizona, 86403, filed a request with the FCC for waiver of the amateur rules to permit him to use amateur radio for news gathering for broadcast purposes.

Specifically, Mr. Shoblom requests that he be permitted to use amateur frequency 434 MHz for gathering news on matters of community interest and broadcast such news on his low power television station.

The FCC's Private Radio Bureau seeks comments on this filing and has assigned "File No. PRB-2" to the matter. "PRB" file numbers are something the FCC unofficially came up with to solicit information from the public. They are more or less similar to NOI's... Notice of Inquiry which we don't seem to see too much of any more.

News gathering on amateur frequencies

has some interesting ramifications. Will amateurs be allowed to participate? Can they be stopped if the licensee (broadcaster) approves it? Can non-type accepted ham gear be used when usually FCC approved communications equipment is required?

I can remember thirty years ago participating in the New England Weather Net on 80 meters. While commercial radio stations did not actively participate, they did listen - and broadcast - the weather the amateurs passed on. At least one television station gave credit to the weather network for their reports. It was cloudy as to whether the net existed to assist broadcasters - or to simply exchange reports among amateurs.

We were confused as to why it was O.K. to report bad weather directly to amateurs at the U.S. weather bureau via ham radio but not to amateur operators at commercial radio stations. There seems to be a fine line between amateur and non-amateur public service.

A good use of amateur spectrum might be to report traffic tie-ups and accidents to broadcast stations during rush hour traffic, but it is not legal. But it is legal to report it to the police via phone patch.

Broadcasters have trouble understanding the difference. Some maintain that the government has no power to control what is said on the air waves... any air waves. The difference, of course, is that the Part 97.110 rules allow emergency... but not routine... business communications on the ham bands. Broadcasters do not handle emergencies... they only report them.

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## POLICE CALL ON AMATEUR COMMUNITY

The City of Santa Monica, California, police department, in conjunction with SURV, Santa Monica Unified Radio Volunteers, is sponsoring a "Crime Watch-85" seminar on October 5th "to open the lines of communications, share information and create liaisons between the various amateur volunteer groups." A registration form asks the participant's amateur radio call sign, license class and an inventory of radio equipment held.

"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a volunteer examiner. I have never had my station or operator license revoked or suspended. I do not own a significant interest in nor am an employee of any company or entity engaged in making, preparing or distributing amateur radio equipment or license preparation materials. My age is at least 18 years old."

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?

under "The W5YI Report" Program? If so, please send a copy of your Extra Class license, this signed statement, and a SASE to: W5YI-VEC; P.O. Box #10101; Dallas, Texas 75207. A certificate (optional) is also available for \$1.00. Details and accreditation materials will be sent to you within a two week period.

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customers.

●OTHER TELEPHONE NEWS... MCI plans to use Amway's door-to-door sales force to sell its long distance service... MCI was only awarded \$37.8 million in its long running anti-trust suit against AT&T. They had sought \$5.8 billion... Southwestern Bell plans to offer software products to its customers... AT&T will not be bringing out AT&T Mail - an electronic mail service that uses computer-voice synthesized voice technology and allows system users to check for mail by telephone when they can't use a computer.

## IN COMMERCIAL RADIO NEWS....

●Seattle radio station KMPS and Sofcast, a Redmond, WA, firm have been transmitting public domain software to their listeners on Sunday mornings during regular broadcast time. The FM transmissions require a demodulator which Sofcast sells for \$70. Eventually Sofcast wants to sell encrypted radio delivered software. The customer pays for the decoding "key" that allows software use.

●Diversicom will introduce a nationwide paging service over FM (subcarrier) radio stations. To send a message, users dial an 800 number on a touch-tone phone and enter the message. The message then goes to a central computer in Washington for eventual satellite transmission to FM radio stations all around the country. The stations transmit the message with their signal which isn't affected.

●ABC Radio is also set to offer a new low-cost, high-speed, addressable electronic mail service. Scheduled to launch next month, the Indesys System will use their ABC Radio Network's digital satellite distribution system and ABC owned and affiliated FM stations. Receipt of the messages will be via IBM-PC or Epson desktop computers equipped with a special Indesys receiver board. Three different message services will be offered... Max-mail (one hour delivery) at 20¢ page; Digitext (four hour) service is 15¢ page and Nitetext (overnight) at 10¢ page.

●FM's share of the commercial radio market has increased to 70.6% of total radio listening... AM now accounts for only 29.4%

## IN PERSONAL COMPUTING....

the word is "slump." The entire U.S. industry is doing poorly... some poorer than others. While U.S. microcomputing issues were booming a year or so ago, it is a "bust" now.

Apple Computer has done particularly poorly. They have many problems. Profit margins have tumbled from 11.7% in 1981 to 4.2% in 1984. Inventory is growing faster than sales. They could have a net loss for 1985. Money managers are dumping Apple stock left and right.

Steve Jobs, the 30 year old chairman of Apple Computer has been put out to pasture by the very company he co-founded. Jobs was stripped of his day-to-day responsibilities and reduced to a mere consultant by John Sculley, the man Jobs spent four months wooing to Apple presidency from PepsiCo, Inc. The other co-founder, Steve Wozniak, has already left the company for the second time.

Scully has reorganized the company, disbanded two divisions, shut 3 plants, and eliminated 1200 jobs "to reduce the break even point." Apple will now be a market driven rather than product driven company.

After having his operational duties rescinded by Sculley, Steve Jobs quietly began selling off his stock... reportedly about \$10 million worth! He still has another \$80 million in Apple shares or about 10% of those outstanding. Apple stock hit a three year low... the company in deep financial trouble. Same old story, sales up, profit down.

Apple's bread-and-butter, the Apple II shows signs of winding down... and sales of Macintosh has been disappointing so far. (They are set up to manufacture three times as many Macs as they are selling.) A new Apple II with more power won't be out until next year.

Both Atari and Commodore have new models that could get the bulk of the important Christmas business. Particularly worrisome to Apple is the new Commodore Amiga and Atari's 520-ST. Like Mac, both are 68000 chip based, offer far more... and cost far less.